

MINUTES

MONTANA SENATE 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Call to Order: Chair Duane Ankney, on March 21, 2017 at 3:00 PM, in Room 317
Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Sen. Duane Ankney, Chair (R)
Sen. Pat Connell, Vice Chair (R)
Sen. Dick Barrett (D)
Sen. Mark Blasdel (R)
Sen. Douglas (Doug) Kary (R)
Sen. Sue Malek (D)
Sen. Mary McNally (D)
Sen. Keith Regier (R)
Sen. Tom Richmond (R)
Sen. Jason D. Small (R)
Sen. Russel (Russ) Tempel (R)
Sen. Gene Vuckovich (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Cynthia Wolken (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Charlene Devine, Committee Secretary
Sonja Nowakowski, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 475, 3/9/2017; HB 193, 3/9/2017; SR 53, 3/17/2017

00:00:48 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON HB 193

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

00:01:36 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 193, Revise utility electric cost recovery.

Proponents' Testimony:

00:06:14 Travis Kavulla, Public Service Commission (PSC)

[EXHIBIT](#)(ens58a01)

00:14:45 Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Counsel (MCC)

00:21:33 Abigail Belcher, Associated Students of The University of Montana

00:22:13 Greg Dahl, AARP Montana

Opponents' Testimony:

00:23:27 John Alke, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)

[EXHIBIT](#)(ens58a02)

00:36:50 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:37:50 Sen. McNally

00:38:16 Mr. Kavulla, PSC

00:43:42 Sen. Connell

00:54:10 Chair Ankney

00:57:54 Mr. Kavulla

00:58:03 Sen. McNally

01:02:45 Mr. Alke, NWE

01:03:30 Sen. Malek

01:05:55 Mr. Brown, MCC

Closing by Sponsor:

01:07:47 Rep. Woods

01:12:11 Chair Ankney

HEARING ON HB 475

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

01:12:25 Rep. Tom Woods (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 475, Requiring certain utilities to file general rate cases.

Proponents' Testimony:

01:18:40 Travis Kavulla, Public Service Commission (PSC)
[EXHIBIT\(ens58a03\)](#)

01:24:41 Jason Brown, Montana Consumer Counsel
01:25:45 Greg Dahl, AARP Montana

Opponents' Testimony:

01:26:34 John Alke, NorthWestern Energy (NWE)
[EXHIBIT\(ens58a04\)](#)

01:37:08 Gary Forrester, Montana Dakota Utilities
01:38:06 Tom Ebzery, Avista Corporation

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

01:40:39 Sen. Barrett
01:44:15 Mr. Kavulla, PSC
01:44:58 Sen. Barrett
01:45:33 Mr. Alke, NWE
01:46:57 Sen. Barrett
01:48:17 Rep. Woods
01:49:33 Sen. Barrett
01:50:17 Mr. Kavulla
01:51:44 Sen. Connell
01:53:55 Mr. Kavulla
01:54:44 Sen. Connell
01:55:36 Mr. Alke
01:57:46 Sen. Kary
02:00:45 Mr. Alke
02:01:36 Sen. Kary
02:01:53 Rep. Woods

Closing by Sponsor:

02:02:26 Rep. Woods
02:05:01 Chair Ankney
02:05:17 Vice Chair Connell assumed the role of the chair.

HEARING ON SR 53

Opening Statement by Sponsor:

02:05:36 Sen. Duane Ankney (R), SD 20, opened the hearing on SR 53, Confirm Governor's appointees to the Coal Board.

Proponents' Testimony: None

Opponents' Testimony: None

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses: None

Closing by Sponsor:

02:07:27 Chair Ankney

02:07:50 Sen. Connell

02:08:19 Sen. Ankney resumed the role as the chair.

02:09:27 Sen. Barrett

02:10:14 Chair Ankney

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 5:20 PM

Charlene Devine, Secretary

Additional Documents

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([ens58aad.pdf](#))